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| 09/819,788 | 03/28/2001 | Daniel J. Reese | 10191/3242 | 2648 |

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| EXAMINER |
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NGUYEN, HUY THANH

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2621

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/819,788

Applicant(s)

REESE ET AL.

Examiner

HUY T. NGUYEN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6,10-11 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lang (4,963,995).

Regarding claim 1, Lang disclose a digital video recorder-controller apparatus (Fig. 1-2) comprising:

a network port (22) for communicatively connecting the DVRC with at least one other apparatus on a network (column 8, lines 29- 55, column 14, lines 54-68);

wherein the DVRC is adapted to transmit through the network port a first selection of digitized video signals, wherein the first selection can include one or more digitized video signals being transmitted to a first other apparatus on the network; and wherein the DVRC is further adapted to receive through the network port ((36,37,35) a second selection of digitized video signals, wherein the second selection can include one or more digitized video signals being transmitted by a second other apparatus on the network;

wherein the DVRC is adapted to facilitate designation of the digitized video signals of the second selection (column 7, lines 30-45, column 8, lines 30-60, column 9, line 55 to column 10, line 5).

Regarding claim 2, Lang further teaches an integrated control panel having dedicated function buttons adapted to facilitate selecting one or more video signals of the first selection and of the second selection (Figs. 1,2) .

Regarding claim 3, Lang further teaches the DVRC of claim 1 further comprising an external control port, adapted to facilitating selecting one or more video signals of the first selection and of the second selection.

Regarding claim 4, Lang further teaches a plurality of video-out ports adapted to display one or more video signals derived from the first selection or from the second selection (column 6, lines 35-68); and wherein the DVRC is adapted to record one or more video signals of the second selection of digitized video signals (column 10, lines 1-20).

Regarding claim 5, Lang further teaches the first other apparatus is a second DVRC on the network (column 10, lines 1-20).

Regarding claim 6 Lang further, wherein the second other apparatus is a digital video recorder (DVR).

Regarding claim 10, Lang further teaches a plurality of Analog video-in ports (15,16) for receiving one or more video signals to be digitized to become one or more digitized video signals.

Regarding claim 11, Lang further teaches the DVRC of claim 1, further comprising at least one digital video-in port, for receiving one or more digitized video signals (Fig. 1-2, column 2, lines 30-60).

Regarding claim 17, Lang discloses a method for expanding a digital video system comprising:

a) providing a first digital video recorder-controller apparatus (DVRC) (Figs. 1-2) having:

a DVRC network port 22 (column 8, lines 29-55) ;

at least one control panel (Fig. 1) ;

wherein the first DVRC is adapted to receive through the DVRC network port a selection of digitized video signals (column 7, lines 65 to column 8, lines 4, column 10, lines 1-20, column 14, lines 54-68); and

a plurality of DVRC video-out ports adapted to facilitate the display of one or more video signals on one or more video monitors (column 8, lines 3-27).

Regarding claim 18, Lang further teaches the method of claim 17, wherein providing a DVRC includes modifying internal software of a DVR since the digital recorder of Lang is controlled by software executed by a CPU (Fig. 2) .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Teng et al (5,930,473).

Regarding claim 7, Lang fails to teach using Ethernet port . Teng teaches using an Ethernet port as an alternative to a network port for transmitting the video information (column 8, lines 20-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lang with Teng by using an Ethernet port as taught by Teng with the apparatus of Lang as an alternative to the network port of Lang for transmitting the video information .

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5. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Osakabe et al (5,666,363).

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Lang fails to teaches the DVRC is further adapted to transmit a first control signal to the second other apparatus, wherein the first control signal designates the one or more video signals of the second selection of digitized video signals to be transmitted by the second other apparatus.

Osakabe teaches a network having a master apparatus and a slave apparatus, the master apparatus sends control signal to a slave apparatus for controlling the slave apparatus to selectively forward the video information to the master apparatus (column 7, line 15 to column 8, line 15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lang with Osakabe by using a control signal generating means of Osakabe with the apparatus of Lang for generating control signals from the DVRC to the second other apparatus thereby enhancing the functionality of the Lang apparatus.

6. Claims 12 – 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Arazi et al (6,330,025).

Regarding claim 12, Lang discloses digital video system (Figs. 1-2) comprising:
a network (column 8, lines 29-55);

a video cameras operatively connected to a digital video recorder controller apparatus (DVRC) on the network (Fig. 2), the DVRC having:

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a first network port for communicatively connecting the DVRC with at least one other apparatus on the network (column 7, line 65 to column 8, line 2, column 8, lines 29-55, column 9, lines 55 to column 10, line 20);

a first plurality of video-out ports adapted to facilitate the display of one or more video signals on one or more DVRC monitors (column 8, lines 2-30);

wherein the DVRC is adapted to receive through the first network port a first selection of digitized video signals including one or more digitized video signals transmitted by a first other apparatus on the network (column 8, lines 29-55); and

a second plurality of video sources operatively connected to a digital video recorder (DVR) on the network (Fig. 2), the DVR having:

a second plurality of video-out ports adapted to facilitate the display of one or more video signals on one or more DVR monitors (column 8, lines 3-29);

a second network port for communicatively connecting the DVR with the DVRC on the network;

wherein the DVR is adapted to transmit through the second network port a second selection of digitized video signals, wherein the second selection of digitized video signals includes one or more digitized video signals of the first selection of digitized video signals (column 8, lines 29-55).

Lang fails to teach using a plurality of cameras with each DVRC. Arazi teaches a apparatus associated with a plurality of cameras (Fig. 1 column 5, lines 15-68). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lang with Arazi by using a plurality of cameras as additional video sources of Lang for

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receiving the video information from plurality of cameras thereby enhancing the capacity of the recorder of Lang for receiving additional video source for recording .

Regarding claim 13, Lang as modified with Arazi further teaches the digital video recording system of claim 12, wherein at least one video camera of the first plurality of video cameras is an analog video camera, and at least one video camera of the second plurality of video cameras is an Analog video camera (See Lang (Fig. 2, column 2, lines 20-65)).

Regarding claim 14. Lang as modified with Arazi teaches the digital video system of claim 13, wherein the DVR is the first other apparatus on the 2 network (See Lang reference) .

Regarding claim 15, Lang further teaches the digital video system of claim 14, wherein the DVRC is adapted to output through the DVRCs first plurality of video-out ports one or more of the digitized video signals of the second selection of digitized video signals (column 2, lines 25-52, column 8, lines 29-55).

Regarding claim 16, Lang teaches the digital video system of claim 14, wherein the DVRC is adapted to record and store one or more of the digitized video signals of the second selection of digitized video signals (column 2 lines 25-52, column 9, line 55 to column10,line 20)

7. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Arazi et al (6,330,025).

Regarding claim 19, Lang further teaches providing a network and connecting the first DVRC to the network; and

connecting a digital video recorder (DVR) to the network, the DVR having;
a plurality of DVR video-in ports, for receiving video signals from video sources ;
a DVR network port; (Fig. 2 column 7, line 65 to column 8, line 2, column 8, lines 29-55, column 9, lines 50 to column 10, line 20)

wherein the DVR is adapted to transmit through the DVR network port a DVR selection of digitized video signals, wherein the DVR selection of digitized video signals can include one or more digitized video signals of the first selection of digitized video signals.

Lang fails to teach using a plurality of cameras with each DVRC . Arazi teaches a apparatus associated with a plurality of cameras (Fig. 1 column 5, lines 15-68) . It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lang with Arazi by using a plurality of cameras as alternative to video sources of Lang for receiving the video information from plurality of cameras thereby enhancing the recorder of Lang for receiving additional video sources .

8. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang in view of Arazi et al (6,330,025) as applied to claim 19 above further in view of Osakabe et al (5,666,363).

Regarding claim 20, Lang further teaches connecting additional DVRs to the

network, whereby the digital video system is expanded to include at least one DVRC and

a plurality of DVRs, each DVR having:

a plurality of DVR video-in ports, for receiving video signals from video cameras;
a DVR network port;

wherein each DVR is adapted to transmit through its DVR network port a DVR selection of digitized video signals, wherein each DVR selection of digitized video signals can include one or more digitized video signals of the first selection of digitized video signals; and wherein the first DVRC transmits through the network a control signal to one or more of the plurality of DVRs (figs. 1-2, column 8, lines 29-55, column 9, line 55 to column 10, line 20).

Lang fails to teaches transmitting a control signal to other DVRs

Osakabe teaches a network having a master apparatus and a slave apparatus, the master apparatus sends control signal to a slave apparatus for controlling the slave apparatus to selectively forward the video information to the master apparatus (column 7, line 15 to column 8, line 15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lang with Osakabe by using a control signal generating means of Osakabe with the apparatus of Lang for generating control signals from the DVRC to the second other apparatus thereby enhancing the function of the Lang apparatus.

Response to Arguments

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9. Applicant's arguments filed 23 January 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In Remarks, applicants argue that "Regarding the Examiner's assertions with respect to the teachings of Lang as applied against the rejected claim 1, Applicants note that the teachings of Lang are fundamentally different from the Applicants' claimed invention. While Lang does disclose an improved multifunctional video recorder, Lang clearly does not teach or suggest that a first selection including a plurality of digitized video signals are transmitted via the network port, or that a second selection including a plurality of digitized video signals are received through the network port, as recited in amended claim 1. Lang simply does not suggest that one or more digitized video signals may be transmitted or received via the modem (audio/video transmitter/receiver 22), since Lang merely discloses that a video signal is transmitted. independent of the above, Lang clearly does not teach or suggest that the DVRC stipulates the video signals of the second selection, i.e., facilitate designation of the digitized video signals of the second selection," as recited in amended claim 1.

In response, it is noted that claims recite that one or more digitized video signals therefore the recited one or more digitized video signal can be read on Lang reference . Since Lang teaches one or more digitized video signals can be transmitted from the apparatus to another apparatus or received one or more digitized video signals from another apparatus. Further Lang teaches a plurality of digitized video signals since the apparatus of Lang receiving a plurality of digital video programs or

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portions from another apparatus and transmitting a plurality of digital video programs or portions to another apparatus via a networking (Lang column 14, lines 54-68)

Applicant further argues that Lang does not teach or suggest that the DVRC has a network port; instead, Lang merely discloses a modem (audio/video transmitter/receiver 22). In response the examiner disagrees. It is noted that Lang teaches the apparatus and another apparatus are in a network since the apparatus and another apparatus can communicate, receive and transmit the digitized video signals from and to each other. Further is noted that the recited network port is a port for receiving or transmitting the digitized video signals that is taught by (See Lang column 7, lines 30-65, column 14, lines 54-68).

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

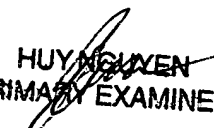
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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUY T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7378. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM -6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

H.N


HUY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER